

*PLE:*

Honestly, I didn't visit my PLE very often unless there was a link that we were supposed to post on it. At first I had posted the wrong links for my Symbaloo and Scoop It but other than that, the PLE was fairly simple to set up and operate.

*RSS feed:*

During my research process, I subscribed to the New York Times' horse racing feed and to Animal Aid's feed through Symbaloo. Subscribing was pretty easy to do once I got some help from Mrs. Host. I didn't really use any articles that came directly from the New York Times feed because most of the articles were about the pop culture aspect of horse racing (Belmont Stakes, etc.) Animal Aid didn't have a feed dedicated solely to horse racing so I didn't use articles from their feed. Instead, I referenced their web page about horse racing.

*Scoop It:*

Scoop It was helpful and easily to use once I got rid of Twitter on my suggested sources. I discovered several articles that were very valuable to our research. These articles were diverse and touched upon many different aspects of horse racing.

*Videos/Interviews/Documentaries:*

In our project, we utilized two different videos, one from Animal Aid and one from Animals Australia. YouTube is a website that is extremely prevalent in our society today. I think that videos can enhance a presentation and add a dimension that cannot be achieved with only written sources (like articles from online databases.) These two videos in our presentation convey the *feeling* of horse racing and give the viewer an inside look into its cruelty.

*Audios:*

Although we used videos in our presentation, we did not implement any audios. Audios

can complement research projects very well but with all of our other sources we didn't think they were necessary.

*Wikispace:*

The Wikispace was a great place to resort to if you were absent or missed something during class. It was definitely helpful to have one site with all the links and documents that we needed on it. Initially, all of the tabs and links were kind of intimidating but after I got more familiar with it, it became very simple to navigate.

*Wordpress:*

When we were first told that we were required to write ten blog entries throughout our research process I thought to myself, *oh great, another thing to do*, but they actually ended up really keeping me on track. In my blog entries I would sum up what Lauren and I had accomplished so far and set new goals. It was also great to be able to communicate with Mrs. Lobitz and Mrs. Host over this site. Wordpress is pretty similar to other blogging websites like Tumblr so I was already familiar with the formatting.

*Prezi:*

I will be the first to admit that I am definitely not the most Prezi-savvy person! Without Lauren's expertise, our Prezi would never have ended up looking this great! I would say that Prezi was probably one of the most difficult tools to master and it would probably be a good idea to teach how to use it for upcoming years. Nevertheless, when mastered, Prezi can be a very

*Voice Thread:*

I did not choose to use this form of presentation and I honestly probably wouldn't in the future. I think they can turn out really well but personally, I'm not a big fan of having my voice recorded.

*To what extent did this type of learning (completely student-centered with teacher as facilitator*

*rather than focus; self-guided; choice-based) result in a meaningful learning experience for you? Please explain.*

This type of independent learning definitely resulted in a meaningful learning experience for me. If it weren't for this project, I probably wouldn't have become familiar with tools such as Symbaloo, Scoop It, and RSS feeds until much later. Our world is advancing very rapidly and it is very much centered around technology. For this reason, it is necessary that we become acquainted with these tools and learn to master them for assignments in college.

*Remember that we fully understand the limitations and stress that came as a result of trying to do this project in so little time at the end of the year. We appreciate your willingness and your enthusiasm, and we even appreciate your candor in evaluating the process. That being said, what suggestions can you make that will help us refine this assignment for future students. What did you like best? What did you not like? {We know more time, and not at the end of the year; you don't need to tell us that!}*

Other than the fact that it was the end of the year, I really liked the whole idea of this project. It felt really new-age and progressive! Of course adapting to this new way of gathering information was stressful for me at first but after I did, it really wasn't all that bad. I found that the sources gathered from using these tools were of much higher quality than those found as a result of aimlessly searching on Google. As I said earlier, I think it would be helpful to teach future students how to use technologies such as Prezi. This presentation software is still very new and can be difficult to understand at first. Also, even though learning to use all of these new sites was overwhelming and frustrating initially, it was a relief to have understanding and supportive people like Mrs. Host and Mrs. Lobitz to help us throughout this process. Lauren was

an amazing partner to have and I was glad that we were able to work together. She is very hard-working and definitely kept me on track throughout the duration of this project.